

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending and rejected in this application.

Responsive to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,283,393 (Guginsky) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,283,612 (Hunter), Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 10, and submit that claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

Guginsky discloses an armored flexible electrical conduit with fittings (Figs. 1 and 2) including a flexible hermetically tight metal conduit 11, a conduit connector female compression fitting 12 and a male tubular coupling 13. Fitting 12 and coupling 13 are coupled to conduit 11 in a hermetically sealed relationship. Fittings 12 and/or coupling 13 are also used to provide a conduit connection to an electrical junction box (column 2, lines 47-59). Female compression fitting 12 is provided with gland 27, which compresses a gland or gasket encircling a conduit inserted into female compression fitting 12, thereby clamping conduit 11 and effecting a hermetically tight coupling (column 3, lines 33-38). Insulation covered multiple conductor cable 29 traverses the length of conduit 11 fittings 12 and couplings 13 (column 3, lines 61-65).

Hunter discloses a light emitting diode light strip (Figs. 1-14). The light strip includes a rigid hollow tube 20 and a printed circuit board 22. Printed circuit board 22 is slightly shorter than tube 20 and just narrower than its inside diameter. Printed circuit board 22 is disposed within tube 20 contiguous with hollow interior inside diameter of tube 20 (column 4, lines 17-37). A pair of end caps 50 captivate printed circuit board 22 within tube 20 and are configured as a half sphere. The half sphere includes an integral stepped shoulder 52 as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. End caps 50 are held in place with fastening device such as cement or adhesive 54, which makes the joint waterproof, thereby hermetically sealing tube 20 (column 5, lines 29-40). An end of

electrical cable 16 engages busses 28 and 30 through bore 56 in one or both of end caps 50.

Electrical cable 60 includes a double flag spade connector 62 on another end opposite the end that engages busses 28 and 30 (column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 8).

In contrast claim 1, as previously amended, recites in part, “an electrical component... solely hermetically sealing said tubing end.” (Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Guginsky, Hunter or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Guginsky discloses the use of fittings 12 and couplings 13 to hermetically seal conduit 11 to another conduit 11 or an electrical junction box through which conductor cable 29 traverses. Hunter discloses a light emitting diode light strip having an end cap 50 held in place with an adhesive, which makes the joint waterproof thereby hermetically sealing tube 20. The cap of Hunter is not an electrical component, nor is the cap solely responsible for the hermetic sealing since a fastener or adhesive is utilized to ensure the hermetically sealing of cap 50 to tube 20. In the current Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Guginsky fails to disclose an electrical component solely hermetically sealing the tubing end. However, Applicants’ invention does have an electrical component solely hermetically seal the end of the tubing, as recited in claim 1.

Herein lies an advantage of Applicants’ invention in that the electronic component does solely hermetically seal the tubing thereby not requiring an adhesive. Accordingly, Applicants submits that claim 1 and claims 2-4 and 7-9 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 10 as previously amended, recites in part “an electrical component... solely hermetically sealing said tubing end.” (Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Guginsky, Hunter or any of

the other cited references alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Guginsky discloses the use of fittings 12 and couplings 13 to hermetically seal conduit 11 to another conduit 11 or an electrical junction box through which conductor cable 29 traverses. Hunter discloses a light emitting diode light strip having an end cap 50 held in place with an adhesive, which makes the joint waterproof thereby hermetically sealing tube 20. The cap of Hunter is not an electrical component, nor is the cap solely responsible for the hermetic sealing since a fastener or adhesive is utilized to ensure the hermetically sealing of cap 50 to tube 20. In the current Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Guginsky fails to disclose an electrical component solely hermetically sealing the tubing end. However, Applicants' invention does have an electrical component that solely hermetically seals the end of the tubing, as recited in claim 10.

Herein lies an advantage of Applicants' invention in that the electronic component does solely hermetically seal the tubing thereby not requiring an adhesive. Accordingly, Applicants submits that claim 10 and claim 13 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guginsky, in view of Hunter and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,701,574 (Shimirak, et al.). However, claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1, and claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guginsky in view of Hunter and further in view of Shimirak, et al. However, claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 10, and claim 10 has been place in condition for allowance for the reasons

given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 11 and 12 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the Examiner's rejection of claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guginsky in view of Hunter, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 14, and submits that claims 14-17 are in condition for allowance.

In contrast claim 14, as previously amended recites in part:

a plug solely hermetically sealing said tubing end, said at least one electrical conductor extending through and sealed with said plug.

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Guginsky, Hunter or any of the other cited references alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Guginsky discloses the use of fittings 12 and couplings 13 to hermetically seal conduit 11 to another conduit 11 or an electrical junction box through which conductor cable 29 traverses. Hunter discloses a light emitting diode light strip having an end cap 50 held in place with an adhesive, which makes the joint waterproof thereby hermetically sealing tube 20. The cap of Hunter is not solely responsible for the hermetic sealing of the tube, since a fastener or adhesive is utilized to ensure the hermetically sealing of cap 50 to tube 20. Further, the Examiner has indicated that Guginsky fails to disclose an electrical component solely hermetically sealing the tubing end. However, Applicants' invention includes a plug solely hermetically sealing a tubing end, with at least one electrical conductor extending through and sealed by the plug, as recited in claim 14.

Herein lies an advantage of Applicants' invention in that the plug does solely hermetically seal the tubing thereby not requiring an adhesive. Accordingly, Applicants submits that claim 14

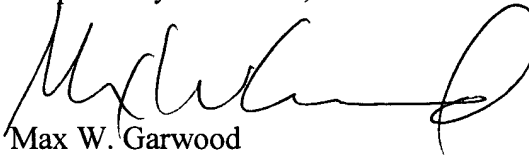
and claims 15-17 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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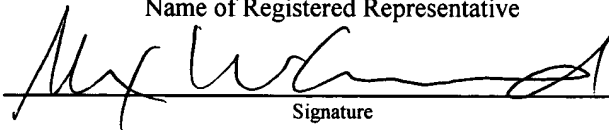
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